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Report on Conversations With Seviet Scientists on Subject of Daidentified Flying Objects in the USER ELPORT NO. CATE DISTR.

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SOURCE

- 2. He vasited who was noncomittal on the subject of UFO's. The scientist who served as translator, a radio astronomer, emphatically utsted that he knew of me sightings of UFO's in the USSR and added with a length that if they were only seen in the US, they must be of Seviet origin.
- 3. At the that heard of some sightings of unidentified objects near the Caucasus. She was unswere of any study being made of them but was open-minded on the subject.
- ested in the problem. He had read Menzel's book (which has been translated into Russias) but did not accept his conclusions. Where of some sightings in the northern part of the USSR, but seld that reports of such sightings are not printed in Soviet newspapers because they are not regarded as scientific observations. (Comment: this is intercating in view of the readiness of Soviet newspapers to print rather fantactic reports of bypotheses and "observations" suggested by the more imministive members of the scientific community. Apparently some official seattles is mesded.) These been interested in U. reports of UFO's and readily accepts their reality. In fact, it is his personal opinion that the UFO's may originate on Venus. He is well aware of the negative effect of "enlightened" actentific opinion on the interpretation of questionable observations as he has had personal

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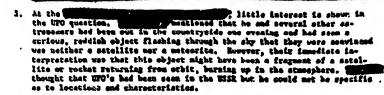
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experience of this effect. (Compent:



- 4. At the east the astronourre, the was with the group meationed by and confirmed the observation of a peculiar object. Be did not discuss the experience in detail but clearly had been struck by the possibility that the object might have been a "sencer."
- The institute includes the initial discussion of the problem was with the director of the institute, the director of the institute the consequently felt was elesed. He indicated that no observations of UTO's had been made by his staff and that they had received no reports of such observations. However, when the proceeded to indicate the results of McDonald's critical study of the problem, the readily concaded that there might be sore to it and concluded by stating that it was "clearly still an open quention,"
- 8. Another astronomer were need that in the morthern part of Enrolhetan there had been repeated rightings of hell lightning.

 Let had said a from out to investigate and discovered that that the being seen were reflections of automobile headlights from an inversion layer.
- 9. Later, a discussion was held with present with themsel's book, but was also not impresent with the significance of the phenomenon. It is possible that some interest was kindled that might lead to additional investigations.
- 10. A steller spectrascopist, was also interested in this problem,

 She was also disserisfied with Hensel's book and folt that there was definitely an opportuity for additional research.
- 11. The general feeling one gets is that no official treatment of the UFO problem has been given in the UESE. Instead people refer to the UESE work, principally Hensel's book, to demonstrate the absence of real scientific problems. At the same time, there is an almost universal evarences of the history and characteristics of the phenomenon after associated with considerable interest. The result is that a semi-pertation of the instead of the Deficial amplanations coupled with same proof of the reality of the observations might excite enthusians more rapidly among Soviet astronomers then among their UES counterparts who are more arroughy influenced by the official ridicule associated with UFO's in UESE.

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- THE CONTRACTOR